

Unvented Heaters Taking High Toll Each Year, Official Warns

By ROY O. GILBERT, M.D.,
Los Angeles County Health
Officer

Every year a number of Los Angeles County residents meet

thinking of buying a car or truck? ? ? See . . .

BILLY VAN



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accidental death as a result of carbon monoxide poisoning. The latest statistics on the subject from the Coroner's office show that from July, 1953 through June, 1954, the number of such fatalities totaled 45, and, unless this winter is different from all others, the next few months will record their new, grizzly, and completely needless list of carbon monoxide fatalities.

Unvented gas heaters operated in closed rooms or trailers still rank first among the causes of all fatal carbon monoxide poisonings. These accounted for 27 of the 45 deaths during the period cited. But it should be emphasized that danger from carbon monoxide exists to some degree any time open flame burning or engine exhaust fumes occur in closed or poorly ventilated quarters.

Other Risks Cited
For this reason, the concept that only unvented gas heaters



are dangerous leaves a gap in safety knowledge that can be lethal. Gas hot water heaters, gas burners, coal and oil burning stoves, butane heaters, and automobiles allowed to run in closed garages have all taken their toll of human life in the past.

No doubt the needless deaths will continue to occur until the public at large becomes thoroughly aware of the treacherous nature of silent, colorless, odorless carbon monoxide gas—and the precautions which can be taken to eliminate its danger.

Due to the nature of the gas, awareness that something is wrong always seems to come too late to permit carbon monoxide victims to save themselves. It is not uncommon to find them sprawled before a closed window in what was obviously a last minute attempt to let in fresh air.

Rate May Be Higher
Actually, the number of deaths indirectly attributable to carbon monoxide fumes may be as high or higher than the above statistics of deaths determined to be caused directly by the gas. It is possible that some automobile and small aircraft accidents are the direct

result of this type of poisoning. In recognition of the possibility, last year the Civil Aeronautics Administration warned all owners of small aircraft to check the heating systems of their small planes. It was noted that in most small planes the cabin is heated by flowing air around the hot exhaust manifold and then through ducts to the cabin. Corrosion, present to some extent in all exhaust systems, might result in pinholes which would permit dangerous concentrations of carbon monoxide gas to reach pilot and passengers.

Exhausts Dangerous
As for motorists, any local garage man will verify the statement that loose, leaking, and corroded exhaust systems are commonly found on all but the newest of cars, and that customers are loathe to have these repaired since the condition in no way hinders the operation of the motor. However, a leaking exhaust system on a car can be extremely dangerous. Both the firewall and flooring of a car are far from airtight, and escaping exhaust fumes penetrate rather easily into the interior of the car. When car windows are open during the summer, the escaping carbon monoxide gas might cause only an annoying headache. The same amount of escaping gas can easily reach devastating concentrations when car windows are closed during cold weather driving. Dizziness or loss of judgment could then occur in a degree which might lead to fatal crash.

Symptoms Related
The early symptoms of the poisoning are usually headache, dizziness, and shortness of breath on exertion. When such symptoms are noticed in circumstances where carbon monoxide might possibly be the cause, fresh air should immediately be made available. However, it is foolhardy to depend on a slightly open window. Deaths have occurred, in the case of unvented room heaters, where at least one window was partially open.

It is equally a lack of wisdom to depend on a heater because it worked safely during previously years. As a matter of fact, most heater deaths occur from heaters which have been in "safe" use for several years. All heaters, but especially unvented ones, should be checked periodically by a competent heating service mechanic or a local gas company to determine whether they are in perfect working order. Car exhaust systems should likewise be checked by a competent automotive mechanic. And, in addition, if a person is fortunate enough to go on a winter holiday, he should by all means make sure that the heater in his motel or room is of the safe, vented type. Ever then, if it is left on all night, he should make certain the room is adequately ventilated.

BICYCLE USE
About 65 per cent of French families own one or more bicycles. There are about 15 million bicycles in use in France according to recent counts.

Faced With Choice, Rev. Wenske Decides to Minister to Souls

By TOM RISCHIE

When the Rev. Paul Wenske was young, he couldn't decide whether to be a minister or doctor.

"It was a choice between helping their souls or their bodies," he recalls. While attending college, he finally decided that the ministry was more to his liking and he has been devoting his life to helping people's souls ever since.

Since he got out of school 15 years ago, he has been ministering to material and spiritual needs of people. Counseling has always been an important part of his work, and for about 14 months, he served full-time as a counselor and chaplain in a federal housing project.

Worked With Families
Through the National Lutheran Council, Pastor Wenske worked with families in the housing projects, helping them with all phases of their lives—budgeting, personal problems, recreational activities, and other things. On two occasions, he was able to persuade two people not to commit suicide.

He has helped to solve problems of many people who did not know where else to turn for aid. The Lutheran Church maintained an agency for handling special problems of all types. If Rev. Wenske cannot help personally, he often refers people to the agency.

Served in Ohio
A native of Hastings, Neb., Pastor Wenske attended school at Hebron, Neb., Jr. College, Wartburg College, of Waverly, Iowa; and Capitol University, of Columbus, O. He served at several pastorate in Ohio before taking a job in a Dayton, O., federal housing project in 1947.

He came to Torrance in 1948 when the Lutheran Church was housed in a building at Acacia and Sonoma Ave., with 40 members and 30 Sunday School children. The church, now moved



GIVING ADVICE . . . Many scenes like this one are reenacted in a pastor's life, according to the Rev. Paul Wenske. He is called upon to help with all types of problems, ranging from marital difficulties to helping plan budgets. He has even talked two people out of committing suicide.

into a new building at Carson and Flower, boasts 426 confirmed members, 725 baptized members, and 550 in Sunday School.

The church is still expanding, with plans being made to add an educational unit to the present buildings next year. The new building was opened on Easter Sunday, 1954. Eventual plans call for the construction of a large sanctuary with a towering spire, also to be added later.

Parish Hall Planned
The present sanctuary, often called one of the most beautiful in this area, will be converted into an auditorium and parish hall when work is finally completed in the future. The church was located on a large plot, Rev. Wenske said.

Baptists Will Hear About 'The Church'

"The Church" will be the sermon topic of the Rev. George F. Cain at the South Bay Baptist Church, 4565 Sharynne Lane, at the 11 a.m. worship service this Sunday.

In the 7:30 p.m. service, he will discuss "The Blessed Hope." A nursery is maintained at all regular church services. Sunday school for all age groups is held at 9:45 a.m.

Youth group will meet in the Chapel and Social Hall at 6:30 p.m., and after the evening service, the senior high groups will attend the Conservative Baptist Sing at the Fairview Heights Baptist Church in Inglewood.

Bible study and prayer meeting will be held Wednesday in the chapel at 7:30, continuing the study of the Gospel of John.

This afternoon and evening will be devoted to calling in the area. Choir rehearsal is at 7:30 p.m. tonight.

MINK FARMERS
There are about 5000 mink farmers in the U. S.

to allow for future growth. The architecture is designed to blend in with surroundings and serve as a "downtown" church. To serve the needs of a growing church, Pastor Walter Behrens, a theological student, is serving as Rev. Wenske's assistant. It is customary for a student to spend a year serving as an assistant.

Played Football
A football player for six years during his college years,

Pastor Wenske is raising a small football player—Paul Luther—and two spectators—Rebecca Rose and Elizabeth Ann. He met his wife while he was attending school.

Also a former amateur boxer, the Lutheran minister still has a punching bag in his garage. He is also a former weight lifter.

Working with people and yard work are his main hobbies, he says.



STUDENTS AT NEW SCHOOL . . . Looking over a scale model of the proposed \$3 million campus of the Bible Institute in Los Angeles are Loren Fischer, student body president, and students Carolyn White, of 1441 W. 228th St., and George Hurler, of 212 Via La Circula. Also enrolled for classes at the La Mirada campus is Lois Jane Hasper, of 8317 Raintree Ave.

BAZAAR SET BY CHURCH

The Gardena Ward Relief Society of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, will hold a bazaar on Friday, Nov. 4, at 6:00 p.m. It will be held at 1880 W. 220th St.

The booths and the ladies in charge of them will be: parcel post, Lois Anderson; baked goods, Lois Manning; candy, Elsie Davis and Jeanne Middleton; handwork, Lillian Linton and Marvalis Hatch; knickknacks, June Hawkins; fish pond, Ruth Witty and Eva Dickert; foods, Nellie Finney, Alice Ball and Kathryn Burns; movies (cartoons) Lois Anderson.

Former Member To Talk Sunday At Tabernacle

The Rev. R. F. Tatt, former member and builder of the Harbor Tabernacle, 1408 W. Anaheim St., Harbor City, will bring his greetings to his former church Sunday night at the 7:30 p.m. service.

The former member and his wife, now at the Mill City Community Church in Mill City, Ore., are on a two-week vacation, visiting the present minister, the Rev. D. S. Cahill, at his home at 26310 President Ave., Harbor City. All friends and members of the congregation are invited to the service.

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